

## Top in Swimming, Top in the Community

Junior Griffin Fiedler has remained undefeated throughout Jay M. Robinson's four meets, and has gained personal best times in the 50, 100, and 200 yard free style races this year. Accommodating personal best times in his 200 individual medley, 100 backstroke, and 100 butterfly, Fiedler swims to the top. Striving to win, Fiedler is known to put a lot of pressure on himself, yet counterargues this attack: "If I don't, I don't think I'll do as well." Reaching third place with a 400 free relay team of fellow Bulldogs, Tyler Gomez, Ryan Buddenbeck, and former youth council member, Chad Heiser, Fiedler was satisfied and enjoyed the company of teammates who love swimming as much as he does in the 2011 regional meet. Treading to states, Fiedler received seventh place in the 100 back stroke last season as well. Outside of swimming for his school, Fiedler swims for NOMAD, a year-round swim program that he has



been in since seventh grade, essentially aiding to his track record. Fiedler was promoted to the "A" relay team during the middle of swim season his freshman year, and continues to make the grade throughout community service activities and in his schooling.

Griffin has chaired *Camp Ready Kids* two years in a row and the blanket project this year for Concord Youth Council.



## senior spotlight

Greg Fields, a senior at Jay M. Robinson High School, has been a Youth Council member for two years. "One of my favorite events was *Union Street Live!* I had the opportunity to see everyone from the community, old and young, come to dance and sing alongside local bands," said Fields. Greg plans on attending N.C. State in the fall and major in engineering. "Working with CYC has allowed me to grow in terms of leadership skills, organization, and service skills to improve our community. I have enjoyed working with peers and adult community leaders to make a difference," he added. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, Greg plans to pursue a career where he can impact society.

Dominique Spriggs is graduating from Concord High. She has been part of Youth Council for two years, and her favorite event was *Cops & Kids*. "I love kids--you could tell they really appreciated our work and had instant gratification when we shopped with them," said Spriggs. These experiences have allowed Dominique to appreciate the community's

*continued on page 2, Seniors*

*Dominique, cont.*

contributions to its citizens. "I learned that there's a lot of networking, with representatives from our community speaking to us. It made me appreciate their jobs more," Spriggs added. Dominique plans to major in Fashion Merchandising at N.C. State.

"My Youth Council experience has been awesome! The people are so nice and I love that lots of people benefit from our projects," says senior **Madison Linker** of Northwest Cabarrus High School. During her three years on CYC, Madison has gained lots of people skills and a love for working in her community and helping people through CYC projects. Her roots go back pretty far in Youth Council, as her brother was one of the first members. Ever since he made CYC what it is today, she has known she wanted to be a part of something so great. Madison plans on attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte or East Carolina University to study nursing, and hopes to be either an ER nurse or neonatal nurse or anything dealing with children, adults, and healthcare. She is also President of a community service club at the YMCA, and has volunteered over 800 hours in the last four years.

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## Contributions YOU Can Make to YOUR Newsletter

As each youth council member participates in various events, we ask that you record your experiences. Shooting a quick email to the editor that describes the events that took place as you participated in the community will lead to a great story that can be published in later issues of our newsletter. So, get involved, and tell us about your outreach... the whole community would love to read about it!



## Making a difference counts!



### Community Ties Staff

**Editor:** Rachel Jones

**Reporters:** Anna Hathcock, Cal Hoke, Dylan Bossard

**Mercedes Fernandez, Sarah Aldridge**



### Blanket Making for Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital

On January 30th, seventeen volunteers from the Concord Youth Council led by chair, Griffin Fiedler, gathered to make blankets for patients of the Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital. With fabric, scissors, and much compassion, a total of eleven blankets were created. When asked to comment on the experience and how it effected her, volunteer Sarah Aldridge said, "It was a really great feeling to make those blankets for the kids because I knew that the work that we did would put a smile on their faces."



### Old Courthouse Theatre

For the month of February, Youth Council members have been ushers at the To Kill a Mockingbird performances at the Old Courthouse Theatre. Kena Patel and Danielle Aguiar are co-chairs. Feedback about our participation has been great!

*"Just wanted to send you a quick note to say thank you for your awesome Youth Council volunteers!! We have LOVED having them with us this past week!!!"* From Kara McAbee, OCT volunteer coordinator.

Great job, CYC!!!!

Hannah Shaw, a senior at Concord High, has been on Concord Youth Council for two years, where she has gained good communication and leaderships skills, met new people, and participated in really interesting events. "My experience in CYC has been exciting and spontaneous. I volunteered for random events and got to do some really fun things with different people," says Hannah. She has been accepted to Gardner-Webb, Appalachian State, and Clemson Universities, and she will be hearing from the UNC Chapel Hill and Elon in March.

Although Hannah defines herself as indecisive, she currently wants to be a lawyer after college although that may change in the next few years. Hannah enjoys running 5k races and reading, and has been awarded the title of 2012 Distinguished Young Woman of Cabarrus County.

### March Birthdays:

**Anna H. 3/8**  
**Brianna S. 3/16**  
**Cassidy H. 3/19**  
**Haley B. 3/28**  
**Kirsten S. 3/7**  
**Tristen M. 3/20**



# MARCH 2012



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <b>Confetti Eggs</b> 3:00pm, Academy Rec Center	6		City Council 6:00pm 8	9	10
11	12 <b>Meeting</b> Fire Station #9, Poplar Tent Rd ELECTIONS.	13	14	15	16	17 11:00am Disc Golf Course clean up @ Dorton Park
18	19 <b>Operation: Teddy Bear Drop</b> 4:00pm Build-A-Bear Workshop	20 <b>Community Free Clinic</b> times vary	21	22	23	24
25	26 <b>SeussFest</b> at Hartsell Rec Center	27	28	29	30	31

\*City Council meeting, Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 26 Union St. S

\*Disc Golf Course Clean Up at Dorton Park, 5790 Poplar Tent Rd., chair: Alex Johnson

\*Community Free Clinic, 528 Lake Concord Rd. NE, chair: Rebecca Skahen

\*Confetti Egg Project: Academy Center; 147 Academy Avenue NW, Concord, 28025, chair: Kirsten Spencer

\*Operation: Teddy Bear Drop, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Concord Mills, chair: Alexandra Spriggs

\*SeussFest, Hartsell Rec Center, 60 Hartsell School Rd., Concord 28027, chair: Kena Patel

\*Fire Station #9, on Poplar Tent Road/ 9 Firestation Dr SW Concord, 28027

## March Projects

### Confetti Eggs

CYC volunteers will meet at the Academy Recreation Center Monday, **March 5 at 3:00pm**. They will be dying egg shells (without the egg yolks!) and filling them with confetti to sell at the Bunny Bash. **Chair, Kirsten Spencer.**

### Disc Golf Course @ Dorton Park

Meet at the big shelter on **Saturday, March 17, 11:00am**. We'll clean up the course and eat pizza afterwards. **Chair, Alex Johnson.**

### Operation: Teddy Bear Drop

**March 19, 4:00pm**, sign up to meet at Build-a-Bear Workshop to make bears to donate to Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital. **Chair, Alexandra Spriggs.**

### Community Free Clinic on March 20

Volunteers will be able to work at the front desk or in the pharmacy. You must be at least sixteen years old to volunteer. See **chair, Rebecca Skahen** for more details about tasks and times.

### SeussFest

At Hartsell Rec Center, **Monday March 26** (school's out!). Time and activities to be determined. See **chair, Kena Patel** for more information and if you like working with pre-school and early elementary aged children.